UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/528
16 October 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 87 (b)

SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 46/147 of 17 December 1991, the General Assembly, inter alia, called upon the international community and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide Liberia with technical, financial and material assistance for the repatriation and resettlement of Liberian refugees, returnees and displaced persons and for the rehabilitation of combatants and their families, as provided for in the national action plans.

2. The Assembly also called upon the international community and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide adequate assistance to programmes and projects identified in the 1991 report of the Secretary-General on emergency assistance for Liberia (A/46/403).

3. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to coordinate the work of the United Nations system and to mobilize assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia; to undertake, in close collaboration with the authorities of Liberia, an overall assessment of needs, with the objective of holding as soon as possible a round-table conference of donors for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia, as a basis for the earliest resumption of the process of development; and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the resolution.

4. The present report describes the emergency assistance activities carried out by the United Nations system in Liberia since the issuance of the previous report of the Secretary-General (A/46/403) in September 1991. The response of Member States to the appeals addressed to them in the resolution is also reviewed. The question of emergency humanitarian assistance to Liberian refugees in the neighbouring countries is addressed in a separate report of the Secretary-General (A/47/529) prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/108 of 16 December 1991.

5. During the period under review, every effort was made to maintain a coordinated United Nations response to all needs arising from the Liberian crisis. The Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Emergency Relief Operations in Liberia (UNSCOL), based at Monrovia, is responsible for coordinating all institutional and operational arrangements for relief programmes and other humanitarian activities in Liberia. The Office of the Special Coordinator includes representatives of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

6. UNHCR is responsible for field coordination at the subregional level with respect to refugees and returnees. United Nations resident coordinators in the host countries are responsible for national programmes and activities with respect to affected host country populations. At United Nations Headquarters,

overall responsibility for coordinating the relief programmes is vested in the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs.

7. The operational framework for the current programme of humanitarian assistance to Liberia was set out in the consolidated appeal issued by the Secretary-General in July 1991. (For a summary, see A/46/403, paras. 23-56.) The present report provides information on progress achieved in implementing the programme, highlights areas still requiring support from the international donor community and, in some instances, identifies new or revised programmes responding to subsequent developments.

8. During the review period, the organizations of the United Nations system, working in close cooperation with international and local non-governmental organizations, have been able to expand considerably the scope and intensity of their relief operations. Four United Nations operational centres were opened in strategic rural areas to enhance the delivery capacity of the organizations concerned. Most areas can now be reached without difficulty, and a viable country-wide emergency assistance programme has been instituted. Nevertheless, security and logistic problems continue to hamper relief operations. The recrudescence of armed hostilities in August 1992 (see para. 47 below) hindered relief work in the affected areas and gave rise to new mass displacements. It is hoped that renewed progress in the peace process sponsored by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) will clear away the existing impediments and hasten the transition from emergency relief to reconstruction and development.

II. SECTORAL REVIEWS

9. As outlined below in the sectoral descriptions, significant progress has been achieved in meeting the urgent needs of the Liberian people in many areas, thanks to the generous response of the international community. The lack of support for non-food aid programmes, however, is a matter of serious concern.

10. An adequate and timely response to the full range of urgent needs of the affected population is required. In addition to considerations of human well-being, the full implementation of the emergency relief programme could contribute to the peace process under way in the country. For example, within the framework of the programme, it has been possible to initiate technical meetings between the various parties, permitting an integrated nation-wide approach for the sectors considered but also contributing to a sense of mutual confidence.

A. Food and nutrition

11. As at July 1992, the World Food Programme and other food donors, principally the Catholic Relief Services, had delivered 102,000 metric tons of assorted food commodities, roughly half to a Monrovia beneficiary population estimated at 600,000, the rest to accessible needy populations up-country.

12. The result of the food aid effort in Monrovia has been dramatic. The critically high 35 per cent rate of acute malnutrition that was recorded in December 1990 dropped to 1.9 per cent a year later. However, the basic socio-economic conditions in Monrovia have not improved. Isolated from the hinterland and with a large part of its growing population unemployed, Monrovia remains dependent on relief food. A serious but sensitive effort is required to reverse this trend. Outside Monrovia, food aid interventions have also resulted in a significant decline in malnutrition rates.

13. In the last year, the rice harvest, while better than originally foreseen, has fallen far short of requirements. The unpredictable security situation has hampered normal agricultural activities and, at times, precluded relief interventions in Grand Gedeh, Cape Mount, Bomi and Lower Lofa counties, where needs remain great. Recent on-the-spot nutrition assessments in Cape Mount and Bomi counties which revealed alarmingly high malnutrition rates prompted a major multi-partner intervention for general food distribution and school feeding services in the two counties.

14. For the immediate future, food aid will continue in Monrovia while slowly shifting the main emphasis from general distribution to food-for-work, vulnerable group feeding and school feeding. In addition, an effort will be made to monetize an increasing part of the food earmarked for general distribution while paying careful attention to market conditions and nutritional levels. Outside Monrovia, it is hoped that a major effort by the relief community in supplying and distributing agricultural tools and seed rice will result in a significantly improved harvest later in the year. The food security situation in the rural areas will be closely monitored so as to safeguard seed rice from consumption and thus increase local food production.

15. Food aid requirements identified in the appeals of the Secretary-General totalled $86.6 million against which $64.8 million has been pledged, leaving a funding gap of $21.8 million. Under present circumstances, the full funding of the previously targeted amount will permit the successful implementation of activities in this sector in 1992.

B. Health and medical care

16. The health situation in Liberia remains alarming. The incidence of disease is high, especially in women and children, the most prevalent afflictions being malaria, malnutrition, diarrhoea, respiratory infections, scabies, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases and worm infections. There is a significant population of displaced persons and refugees who need to be provided with health care. In many regions of the country, health facilities still have to be rebuilt, medical equipment has to be installed, and drugs have to be supplied. Much of the physical and logistical infrastructure of the health sector has to be reconstructed, including appropriate manpower development.

17. With UNICEF and WHO as lead agencies, United Nations emergency intervention in the health and medical sector has been both extensive and multifaceted. It has ranged from supporting vaccination campaigns, a major field hospital and several maternal and child health centres in Monrovia to providing essential drugs and medical equipment to non-governmental organizations partners working the interior, such as Médecins sans Frontières/Belgium, as well as operating an effective multi-county disease surveillance and control programme. Médecins sans Frontières/Belgium has itself supported and managed an extensive network of health facilities in Monrovia, Nimba, Lofa, Grand Gedeh and the south-east.

18. However, the sustainability of the progress achieved is made more difficult by the withdrawal or planned withdrawal of several emergency relief organizations. In the absence of national institutions to assume the activities of those organizations, the relief community, including notably UNICEF and WHO, faces the enormous task of preventing further deterioration in the health sector of the country while catering for returning refugees, ex-combatants and the displaced. The current sectoral priorities are identified below with a brief description of resource requirements.

Private health institutions

19. These facilities continue to offer essential health services in the face of extreme difficulties, including dire shortages of drugs, equipment, personnel and supplies. Traditional sources of support are no longer available and a total of $2.6 million is required for essential support over the next six months.

Disease control, including HIV/AIDS

20. WHO proposes to continue its programmes of data collection, prevention and treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases, at an estimated cost of $200,000. A separate component costing $300,000 would be directed to preventing the spread of HIV through health education, condom promotion, counselling and HIV testing.

National drug services

21. UNICEF, WHO and some non-governmental organizations are supporting the re-establishment of the National Drug Services. This will require major investments in buildings, manpower, stocks, training and administrative systems. The estimated cost for one year is $4,950,000, comprising $4,175,000 for the purchase of essential drugs, $475,000 for non-medical supplies and $300,000 for logistical support.

Expanded programme of immunization

22. In order to prevent epidemics, the immunization programme needs to be revitalized throughout the whole country. The total cost is estimated at

$2,560,000, to include the purchase of cold-chain equipment, the provision of logistic support, the procurement of vaccines, training of health workers and community education.

Nutritional surveillance programme

23. Child malnutrition is still prevalent in areas outside of Monrovia. It is proposed to establish a country-wide nutritional surveillance system and carry out small-scale nutritional interventions as required, at an estimated cost of $400,000.

Health information and education

24. Two elements require immediate attention: establishment of a country-wide health information system and health education. The cost of these activities is estimated at $380,000.

Maternal and child health

25. The maternal and child health services, partially restored in Monrovia, need to be expanded to all parts of the country. Requirements for expansion into the rural areas, focusing on refresher courses, logistics, data collection and supervision, are estimated at $500,000.

Mental health, drug abuse and psychological counselling

26. During the war many people suffered psychological trauma, contributing to a high incidence of mental disability and drug and alcohol abuse. A plan has been proposed to establish the mental health care system, including psychological counselling, with a strong community rather than institutional orientation. It involves the establishment of small in-patient treatment units in two hospitals, out-patient clinics in the areas served and training of health workers and community leaders. Initial costs are estimated at $800,000.

Other priorities

27. In addition to the activities outlined in section C below, WHO will initiate a water quality and pit latrine construction programme to prevent epidemics of cholera and other contagious diseases at community level ($150,000). Programmes for the control of diarrhoeal disease ($300,000) and malaria ($400,000) will also be implemented.

28. The 1991 consolidated appeal identified resource requirements for the health sector at $20 million. The recorded response to the health sector appeal thus far totals only $10.7 million. Taking into account funds already pledged and subsequent programme revisions, the additional resource requirements amount to $9.3 million. The full funding of these activities is essential if UNICEF, WHO and partner non-governmental organizations are to succeed in their efforts to prevent a return to the desperate emergency conditions that prevailed at the beginning of 1991.

C. Water, power and sanitation

29. Médecins sans Frontières/Belgium and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) initially made major contributions in the water, power and sanitation sector. UNICEF has however now had to assume full responsibility. It should be noted that the emergency interventions undertaken or contemplated are essentially stop-gap measures. The much-needed basic rehabilitation of the water, power and sanitation infrastructure will require major capital investments which are beyond the scope of this programme.

30. Even within this limited framework, it has been possible to re-establish a water treatment system in Monrovia that can provide an adequate amount of water, although distribution throughout the city is a continuing problem. Energy supply for vital water treatment installations in greater Monrovia is erratic but adequate power should be assured by the end of 1992. Major repairs to the water distribution network have reduced the enormous losses experienced after the war, and the cleaning of the sewage and surface water networks has contributed to the avoidance of any major epidemics.

31. In 1992 emergency interventions in Monrovia include the following:

(a) Continuing efforts to rehabilitate the water treatment plant, repair the transmission and distribution system and monitor water quality;

(b) Rehabilitation of the sewage disposal system (cleaning of blocked sewers, replacement of a main sewer pipe, repair of pumping stations and collapsed sewers, and monitoring of sewage disposal system in Monrovia);

(c) Maintenance, repair and overhaul of power units and auxiliary systems to ensure the availability of reliable power to the water treatment plant, sewage system and vital clinics and schools;

(d) Development of an environmentally safe strategy for the management of solid waste disposal and control of sewage outfalls;

(e) Cleaning and rehabilitation of surface water drainage systems;

(f) Development of popular programmes and community participation in public health and sanitation;

(g) Construction of shallow wells in areas not covered by the water supply systems, to provide an emergency supply of water in the event of the failure of the urban water supply system.

32. In the wake of the civil conflict, the urban water supply systems in the nine stations outside of Monrovia were not operational. With extreme difficulty, operations were restarted at Gbarnga and Buchanan in December 1991. In the rural areas, the situation is even worse. It is estimated that 70 per cent of the wells equipped with pumps are not working. Many wells need cleaning and almost all need disinfection. Unfortunately, in 1991 little could be done in many areas because of security conditions.

33. In 1992, two major emergency interventions are being implemented:

(a) Emergency rehabilitation and operational maintenance of piped water supply systems at Gbarnga, Kakata and Buchanan;

(b) Emergency rural water supply and sanitation, to include rehabilitation or construction of wells with hand pumps, construction of sanitation facilities in population centres, and the setting up of institutional arrangements to ensure regular maintenance.

34. The 1991 appeal identified requirements amounting to $7.7 million for this sector, against which contributions of $6.2 million have been received. The implementation of the activities outlined above requires an additional funding of $1.9 million including newly identified activities.

D. Education and children in difficult circumstances

35. A holistic approach has been pursued in the provision of services to orphaned and abandoned children, involving vocational training and counselling in addition to shelter, food and medicine, while inputs into the educational sector have increased steadily.

36. These efforts have resulted in a gradual increase of school enrolment figures, which have now reached 70 per cent of the pre-war level in greater Monrovia and 28 per cent in the country as a whole. However, the need to maintain strong external support in this field is underlined by the continued paralysis of national structures, the large number of disabled and malnourished children who remain untreated, and the inability of families and communities to provide for their children's basic needs.

37. For 1992 the general thrust of the programmes is being maintained, with special emphasis on projects involving:

(a) Community-based rehabilitation of the physically handicapped;

(b) Counselling training for 80 professionals to work as trainers in the health and educational systems;

(c) Neighbourhood self-help programmes, including day-care for children of working women, income-generating skills training for women, girls and former youth combatants, literacy training and renovation of primary schools;

(d) Family tracing and reunification efforts for some 1,000 orphaned, abandoned and displaced children, together with temporary assistance to 500 children still in orphanages;

(e) Vocational training (carpentry, masonry and low-cost building technology) for disadvantaged, displaced and former combatant youths;

(f) Development of peace education programmes.

38. Urgent efforts should also be devoted to reviving the formal educational system so that children, including those of returning refugees, can benefit from the learning opportunities and structured environment offered by primary and secondary schools.

39. Taking into account funds already pledged, an additional amount of $4.8 million is required for implementing the activities described above.

E. Agriculture

40. In view of the devastating impact of the Liberian civil war on farmers, the main thrust of the emergency agricultural programme has been to provide farmers with basic farm inputs, such as rice and vegetable seeds and hand tools, as the corner-stone for reactivating this vital sector.

41. The programme has provided over 1,500 tons of rice seed, some 10 tons of assorted vegetable seeds and approximately 50,000 assorted hand tools. While smaller than originally foreseen, the rice harvest at the end of 1992 is none the less expected to be substantially higher than that of the previous year, which only filled one third of the consumption requirement. However, there will still be a significant shortfall and, given the lack of public finance and the low level of purchasing power among the population, food aid will continue to be required to fill this gap.

42. In addition to emergency input requirements FAO has formulated some eight agricultural projects aimed at reviving Liberian agriculture. These are in the critical areas of seed production, input supply, reactivation of rural blacksmithery, agricultural marketing, small-scale fisheries and small livestock industries. Two other projects cover the resettlement and rehabilitation of young people, notably ex-combatants, and processing of gari and farina from cassava.

43. Additional resources of $3.6 million are needed to fund these activities.

F. Refugees, returnees and displaced persons

44. The security and political situation in the country has so far made organized repatriation of Liberians from countries of asylum premature. UNHCR has none the less developed contingency plans for organized repatriation when conditions allow. Steps will be taken to repair key roads and bridges and rehabilitate proposed transit shelters and install the water points necessary to prepare for organized repatriation. At the same time UNDP, through the Office of the Special Coordinator, is working with United Nations agencies in the design of a programme for reintegration of returnees and displaced persons in the main areas of origin. The programme will also benefit ex-combatants and those who remained in their places of origin. While modest funding is needed for the design of this scheme ($200,000), significant additional resources will be required for its implementation.

45. The relative improvement in the security situation in the past year encouraged thousands of Liberians to opt for spontaneous repatriation. UNHCR has agreed to facilitate the travel of spontaneous returnees and to intensify its assistance on their arrival in Liberia. On the basis of a projected total spontaneous arrival of some 100,000 Liberians in the coming months, and including preparatory needs for the organized repatriation, UNHCR has allocated a budget of $2,944,415 (excluding food needs which will be supplied by WFP from its regional stocks).

46. During the past 18 months some 115,000 Sierra Leonean refugees have fled to the western Liberia border counties of Lofa (90,000), Cape Mount (20,000) and Bomi (5,000). UNHCR has responded with an emergency assistance programme of $2,514,780 to cover the period from July to December 1992. A recent nutritional survey in northern Lofa found refugees there in very poor condition and a crash relief programme of food and medical attention has been initiated, but it is hampered by virtually impassable roads. Additional assistance is urgently required to support the growing refugee population and carry out limited infrastructural work to facilitate access to the affected areas.

47. After the outbreak of fighting in Cape Mount and Bomi counties between forces of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) and the United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia (ULIMO), some 20,000 to 25,000 displaced persons arrived in Monrovia in late August. These included an estimated 5,000 Sierra Leonean refugees, adding to a population of 4,000 Sierra Leonean refugees already in Monrovia. Another 15,000 to 20,000 displaced persons have moved to the Bong Mines, Todee and Kakata areas. More are expected to arrive in Monrovia as the military situation in Cape Mount and Bomi remains tense and prone to escalation. Meanwhile, UNHCR implementing partners in food distribution, health and nutrition that were operating in the two counties have been redeployed to Monrovia to assist in efforts to deal with the emergency caused by the influx.

48. The majority of Sierra Leonean refugees in Monrovia have expressed a wish to return to their home country. UNHCR is devising plans, in consultation with the Government of Sierra Leone, to facilitate the repatriation of those who opt to return voluntarily.

G. Reintegration of former combatants

49. An estimated 70,000 to 100,000 persons have taken part in the civil war as armed combatants. These include a large number of teenagers and some women. Many participated in violent acts and suffered traumatic experiences as well as physical wounds and psychological problems.

50. In the Yamoussoukro agreement of 30 October 1991, it was foreseen that combatants would be disarmed, encamped and demobilized. The implementation of these provisions has been delayed but the agreement remains valid.

51. At this juncture, the number of combatants to be encamped (and for how long) and the number to be returned directly to civilian life is still unknown, as is the total number of camps to be established. Assistance has been sought by the parties involved to facilitate this process, in particular to help reintegrate ex-combatants into the community. This might entail screening to determine the background and skills of former combatants as well as their aspirations and need for psychological counselling.

52. Assistance might also be considered in terms of literacy and vocational training and provision of basic commodities such as food and health services. Support may also be required to facilitate the productive reintegration of former combatants into their home communities.

53. Some will need tools or agricultural inputs to contribute to their own upkeep and community welfare, while others should return to school or university. Food-for-work programmes to repair damaged facilities could also be established. Integrated community-based programmes are being designed to promote the reinsertion of combatants (with returnees and other displaced persons) in areas of concentration such as Nimba, Lofa, Bong and Grand Gedeh counties. Additional funds will need to be sought as the extent of programme requirements is defined.

H. Programme support and management

54. In the absence of a functioning country-wide government structure and basic facilities and suitable infrastructure, an ad hoc framework to facilitate the implementation of emergency operations throughout Liberia by the international community has had to be established. In this context, UNSCOL is providing indispensable logistic and administrative support for the United Nations agencies operating in Liberia, and for international non-governmental organizations and local self-help groups. This has included provision of international and national staff, establishment of operational centres up-country, transport facilities for relief supplies and personnel (vehicles and aircraft), the organization of security coverage, communications links (within the country and to the outside) and accommodation to assist both United Nations and non-governmental organizations activities. This logistic support has been especially valuable in effectively mobilizing and coordinating the international response to the Liberian emergency both at the outset of the operation and as the programme has expanded up-country.

55. In the course of the last year four UNSCOL operational centres have been established, at Gbarnga, Zwedru, Harper and Voinjama, together with a temporary facility in Cape Mount County to support international relief efforts up-country. The operational centres have been instrumental in extending the outreach of emergency programmes to the most needy areas of the country, and establishing a reliable network for the distribution of relief supplies in conjunction with the Liberian organization Liberians United to Save Humanity (LUSH). The centres provide an operational framework for collaboration among United Nations and non-governmental organizations in

distributions of food, agricultural tools and seed rice and in projects in the fields of health, water and sanitation and education. The effectiveness of this mechanism in the Liberian context has been well demonstrated and it is anticipated that future operational centres will need to be established to support relief, reintegration and reconstruction efforts.

56. The contribution of dynamic, experienced United Nations Volunteer (UNV) specialists to the Liberian emergency programme continues through the operational centres, which are managed by UNV logisticians. Other UNV specialists in agriculture and health have also been fielded to improve the effectiveness of community-based programmes in these areas. Additional UNV specialists will be required to strengthen the capacity of LUSH to implement relief, repatriation and rehabilitation programmes in areas of expertise such as community development and health.

57. The Special Emergency Life Food (SELF) community structure which is now well established in Monrovia has developed a unique housing enumeration scheme which provides the basis for general food distributions and other community-based rehabilitation programmes. With United Nations assistance, democratic elections of representatives for community relief teams were recently held in 180 neighbourhoods. This relief structure is continually adjusted with respect to displaced refugees and is now being used for health and education programmes (including for AIDS) reception of returnees, school feeding, food-for-work and vulnerable group programmes. SELF is now also organizing community development programmes through the community welfare teams. Up-country, LUSH is being helped to develop and strengthen a similar structure. Working in close collaboration with the operational centres, community welfare teams are distributing relief supplies, food and agricultural inputs and are gearing up to manage community-based self-help efforts.

58. As the scope of the emergency programme up-country has developed, the need for management of the monitoring, evaluation and reporting activities of the operational centres has become increasingly evident and an Emergency Programme Management Unit has been established to provide the necessary coherence and support to the Special Coordinator and partners in the international relief effort. The Unit also assists with the management of a new experimental rice monetization scheme, which has been introduced by WFP to test the potential for the importation of commercial rice to reduce the dependency on relief support. The proceeds from that scheme are used to finance projects that deal with bottlenecks in emergency operations and community-based non-governmental organization initiatives.

59. Further support is still required to transport emergency goods and personnel in the context of the country-wide programme. Progress is also being made on arrangements to use up-country air fields, in particular to facilitate distribution and movement of personnel supplies as roads become impassable in the south-eastern region in the rainy season. The Institute for Liberian Languages (TILL), a Liberian-based non-governmental organization, has

already arranged the positioning of two small aircraft for the relief efforts on a minimum cost basis.

60. Communication continues to be vitally important for ensuring both the security of relief personnel and the quick response of United Nations and other agencies to evolving needs in various parts of the country. The UNSCOL communication centre at Monrovia monitors all missions and the operational deployment of United Nations staff and maintains regular links with non-governmental organization networks throughout the country.

61. The costs of programme support and management for the emergency programme have had to be substantially met from United Nations sources, notably UNDP. Additional requirements to cover operational centres, United Nations Volunteers specialists, emergency management staff, transport and logistics costs and non-governmental organizations support are estimated at $1.6 million.

III. ASSISTANCE BY ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

62. In addition to the activities described above, several entities of the United Nations have provided information on assistance rendered to Liberians during the period under review.

United Nations Children's Fund

63. UNICEF has participated in consolidated inter-agency appeals to assist vulnerable groups in the neighboring countries of Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, and Sierra Leone, which have been negatively affected by events in Liberia. In Liberia itself UNICEF has updated an appeal for $13.8 million and awaits a political solution to enable the expansion of the relief operation to other parts of the country.

64. In accessible areas, UNICEF continues to provide water and sanitation facilities, special education for children under especially difficult circumstances and nutritional surveillance.

United Nations Development Programme

65. Within Liberia, UNDP has provided the United Nations Special Coordinator for Liberia, as well as support staff and logistical support for the operation of UNSCOL and its programmes. This has included the creation of four operational centres, funded by indicative planning figure funds from UNDP, in strategic locations in the country to enhance the humanitarian assistance delivery capacity of both United Nations and non-governmental organization programmes.

66. A main concern of UNDP in supporting such efforts has been to facilitate the transition from relief to rehabilitation and reconstruction, and eventually to normal development activities. Such efforts range from distribution of agricultural seeds and tools to promotion of local non-governmental organizations, both in an immediate relief role and in a

larger role in post-relief activities. While conditions for the initiation of a new UNDP country programme are not appropriate at this time, the interim Government has received approval from the UNDP Governing Council to proceed with the implementation of projects with a potential to contribute to the rehabilitation and reconstruction process on a case-by-case basis. As a result of a joint UNDP/interim Government exercise, a number of projects will be continued or reoriented, including projects for assistance to the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs and to the Ministry of Budget, assistance to the national AIDS programme, and projects related to the promotion of private sector development.

67. A rehabilitation and reconstruction planning project is being developed to carry out a comprehensive assessment of sectoral needs and to formulate policy and programme options for the new Government which is to be formed after elections are held. UNDP is also providing technical assistance to the Elections Commission itself.

68. Lastly, UNDP is assisting with plans for the development of a community based area assistance scheme to facilitate the reintegration of displaced persons, returning refugees and demobilized combatants into their home areas.

69. With regard to the assessment of needs and the round-table conference of donors mentioned in General Assembly resolution 46/147 (see para. 3 above), UNDP considers that the outcome of the above-mentioned activities will provide the new Government with sufficient data and policy options to facilitate formulation of a rehabilitation and reconstruction strategy for Liberia for eventual presentation to a donors' conference. UNDP will also stand ready to assist the Government in organizing the round-table conference.

World Food Programme

70. Since the inception of the civil strife emergency in December 1989, WFP assistance has been channelled through a series of six country-specific and three regional emergency operations, as well as the current regional protracted refugee and displaced person project, for which a total of 337,424 tons of basic food have so far been allocated, with deliveries amounting to approximately 220,000 tons. In Liberia alone, some 130,000 metric tons of food aid have been delivered since November 1990, of which 105,000 tons have been distributed. WFP has further assumed responsibility for coordinating the mobilization and delivery of most food consignments from donor sources.

71. In April 1992 the first lot of 500 metric tons of rice was sold under an experimental pilot monetization scheme which intends to wean the population from total emergency food aid dependency and help revitalize the commercial market. In May 1992, the governing body of WFP, the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, approved an extension of food aid deliveries under a protracted refugee operation with a total value of $170 million, covering the year 1993.

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

72. Habitat is actively consulting with the interim Government of Liberia concerning the provision of Habitat technical assistance focusing on the following:

(a) Evaluation of the current housing situation;

(b) Formulation of temporary settlement strategies for displaced persons;

(c) Formulation of national strategies for permanent shelter and settlement development.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

73. FAO re-established its representation in Liberia and through it is assisting in coordinating relief activities and other support for the country, particularly in the agricultural sector.

74. Since January 1992, FAO has been fielding a number of missions in Liberia to prepare projects for implementation in line with the Secretary-General's consolidated appeal for emergency humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation of the country.

75. Under the same appeal, FAO has been making efforts to mobilize resources and donor support for the provision of agricultural inputs such as farm tools, seeds, fishing equipment, and agricultural chemicals essential to reactivate the agricultural sector.

76. The Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture continues its intensified monitoring of the food supply situation in Liberia. The monthly FAO report, Foodcrops and Shortages and the Special Africa Report, provide assessments of agricultural conditions, food aid requirements and the progress of emergency operations being undertaken to assist the large number of displaced persons and other needy Liberians. Those reports further highlight the problem of critical shortages of agricultural inputs.

World Health Organization

77. WHO re-established its office in Monrovia early last year in conformity with the other agencies and has appealed for over $13 million for emergency assistance to Liberia. Unfortunately, the response to that appeal was negative and WHO used its regular budget funds to provide humanitarian assistance to the affected population in Monrovia and the interior within available funds. WHO appealed again to the donor community for funds totalling $5.2 million for 1992, so as to permit it to continue its humanitarian role throughout the year in the health sector.

IV. ASSISTANCE BY MEMBER STATES AND OTHER DONORS

78. By communications dated 6 May 1992, the Secretary-General requested Member States and other donors to provide information on the nature and extent of emergency assistance rendered to Liberia in compliance with General Assembly resolution 46/147. The responses received, including information on assistance to Liberian refugees in neighbouring countries, are summarized below.

Canada

79. In fiscal year 1989/90, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) provided a total of Can $560,000 of non-food aid to UNHCR and ICRC to assist refugees in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea. The following year, this amount rose to Can $6,655,000, and was directed towards United Nations agencies, including UNHCR, UNICEF, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) and WFP, ICRC and various non-governmental organizations. In fiscal year 1991/92, CIDA contributed non-food aid valued at Can $3,310,000 for Liberians, through United Nations agencies (UNHCR, UNICEF, UNV and UNDP), ICRC, and the Adventist Development Relief Agency (ADRA). During the current fiscal year, CIDA has contributed another Can $90,000 to ADRA for work it is doing with displaced Liberians in Sierra Leone.

80. As for food aid for Liberians, the amounts provided by CIDA over the past two fiscal years were Can $4,100,000 in 1990/91 and Can $1,979,000 in 1991/92.

Denmark

81. Danish emergency assistance to Liberia in 1991 amounted to DKr 17 million, of which 14 million was channelled through UNHCR and UNICEF and 3 million through Danish non-governmental organizations.

Germany

82. In 1992 the Foreign Office has projected DM 14,900 for rice seed for displaced persons in Liberia.

83. Owing to the civil war in Liberia bilateral projects have been discontinued, except for the project on consultancy in the field of drinking water.

84. In 1991 the German Government made the following special contributions to multilateral organizations for humanitarian assistance to Liberia: UNHCR, DM 2 million; ICRC, DM 500,000.

85. In addition, DM 315,000 have been provided through the German non-governmental organization Caritas Germany.

Japan

86. In March 1992, Japan contributed $800,000 in emergency aid to UNICEF to aid mothers and children and improve health and sanitation.

87. The aid disbursed in 1991 was as follows:

March 1991: ¥ 168 million to the UNHCR special programme to support Liberian refugees

July 1991: ¥ 100 million in food aid, through WFP

July 1991: ¥ 150 million in food aid, through WFP

August 1991: SwF 300,000 to the ICRC programme to support Liberians in need.

Norway

88. Norway contributed NKr 900,000 (approximately US$ 150,000) to ICRC for emergency relief for Liberia and NKr 900,000 (approximately US$ 150,000) to the same organization, earmarked for Liberian refugees in Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire.

Saudi Arabia

89. Saudi Arabia has offered aid and developmental loans to Liberia in the amount of 72,014,800 Saudi Arabian riyals appropriated in the following manner:

(a) Non-redeemable loans in the amount of SR11,414,800 offered for humanitarian purposes the last of which was nutritional aid in the amount of SR1 500,000 offered in the year A.H. 1412 (A.D. 1991/92), being currently distributed to the Liberian refugees that are in Guinea because of the war;

(b) Loan from the Saudi Fund for Development in the amount of SR1 70,600,000 to finance the following projects, both of which have been completed: project concerning the road to the bridge Tomban Boni Haliz (SR1 31,800,000) and project for the enlargement of Yorshid electric generating station (SR1 38,800,000).

Sweden

90. During the fiscal year 1990/91 personnel corresponding to an amount of Skr 15.3 million was provided from SWEDRELIEF to the UNICEF hospital in Monrovia. In addition to this, about SKr 1.7 million was allocated for assistance to Liberia.

91. As to disaster relief for the fiscal year 1991/92, around SKr 5.2 million was transferred. Additionally, SKr 4 million has been given to the UNICEF programme for refugees. Disaster relief provided to Liberia has focused on returning refugees from neighbouring countries and on other vulnerable groups.

92. Multilaterally, significant support has been given to regional appeals of United Nations bodies and other international organizations, mainly ICRC. For example, in June 1992 the Government appropriated SKr 80 million to ICRC for food and medical relief to African countries in acute need, and SKr 70 million to UNHCR for its refugee programme in Africa.

93. Approximately SKr 735,000 has been given to promote the development of democracy through Caritas for the rehabilitation of a radio station in Monrovia.

94. In addition, the following amounts were paid to Liberian refugees in surrounding countries during the fiscal year 1990/91: via the Swedish Red Cross SKr 3 million, through UNICEF 8 million, through the non-governmental organization Diakonia 2 million, and through UNHCR 3 million, that is, in total SKr 16 million.